THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): (a) Mandovi Pellets Limited, a joint sector enterprise which was set up as a 100 per cent export oriented unit for the production of blast furnace grade pellets commenced production in September, 1979. Soon after commencement of production the plant was faced with problems in its operations; severe shortage of power, a large increase in the price of furnace oil and subsequent fall in pellet prices in the world market arising due to recession in the world steel industry. Due to these problems, its operations became unviable and the plant had to close down in April, 1981 after getting the requisite approval.

As this plant is a 100 per cent export oriented unit, the closure does not affect the domestic steel industry. As a consequence of the closure of the plant, no retrenchment of workers has taken place. Out of 361 workers employed in Mandovi Pellets Limited 266 workers have been laid off voluntarily.

(b) A public sector consultancy organisation within the jurisdiction of Department of Steel, Metallurgical and Engineering Consultants Limited (MECON) is carrying out a through study of what economics can be made to reduce the cost of production in the plant through such measures as the replacement of furnace oil by coal. The preliminary analysis completed by MECON indicated that even this will not enable the operation of this plant to become viable in view of the very low price of pellets in the world market. The final report is expected shortly.

राजस्थान में बस रहे पाकिस्तानी तथा अन्य विदेशी

*439. **श्री मीर्जा इर्शादबेग ऐपशबेग :** क्या गृह मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कुछ समय पूर्व अस्थायी, अवधि के लिए पाकिस्तान तथा अन्य पड़ोसी देशों से भारत आये अनेकों लोगों ने राजस्थान नहर के समीप बसना शुरू कर दिया है और नहर के इर्द-गिर्द की जमीन पर कब्जा कर लिया है ;

(ख) क्या इस मामले में कोई जांच की गयी है ; और

(ग) यदि उपरोक्त भाग (ख) का उत्तर "ना" हो, तो क्या सरकार, इस मामले में कोई जांच करने का विचार रखती है ?

गृह मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री पी० वेंकटसुब्बय्या) : (क) सरकार को पाकिस्तानियों और अन्य पड़ोसी देशों के लोगों के राजस्थान नहर के समीप बड़े पैमाने पर बसने की कोई रिपोर्ट प्राप्त नहीं हुई है ।

(ख) और (ग). राजस्थान के सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र में उचित निगरानी रखी जा रही है ।

Drop-out at Primary School level by Scheduled Tribe Children

*440. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the rate of drop-outs amongst the children belonging to the Scheduled Tribes is very high at the primary school level in Orissa and some other States;

(b) whether the Central Government have provided additional assistance to the States to reduce the drop-out rate; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken by the State Governments in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Additional assistance is provided by the Central Government under Special Central assistance to the States for educational development of scheduled tribes. Enrolment and retention drives for reduction of drop-out rates is taken up by the State Governments.

(c) Some of the measures taken by the State Governments for educational development of scheduled tribes are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Measures taken by State Government for Educational Development of Scheduled Tribes

1. Giving priority in opening of primary and middle schools within walking distance in Tribal sub-Plan areas.

2. Improvement of facilities in schools located in Tribal areas including hostel facilities.

3. Concerted efforts in the educationally backward States including Orissa augmented by special Central assistance on a matching basis for Non-Formal Programme.

4. Provision of incentives like free text-books and stationery, free uniforms, mid-day meals, scholarships and freeships and compensation to parents.

5. Opening of pre-primary schools and provision of creches as adjuncts to primary and middle schools.

6. Opening of more Ashram type schools to cover the sparesely populated Tribal pockets which cannot support a school individually and also function as a Model Public Residential School for Scheduled Tribes.

7. Proposals to prepare special curricula suited to socio-economic needs of tribals.

Raising of Nuclear Power Target

@2693. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Electricity Authority has approached the Nuclear Power Board to raise the nuclear power target by 2000 A.D.;

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Nuclear Power board about increasing the target; and

(c) what are the other alternatives before his Ministry to increase power to meet the growing and prospective demand by 2000 A.D.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ATOMIC ENERGY, SPACE, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir. The Central Electricity Authority had recommended an increase in the share of nuclear energy in the generation of electricity to more than 10,000 MWe.

(b) The Department of Atomic Energy have drawn up a Nuclear Profile which envisages installation of an achievable target of 10,000 MWe by the year 2000 A.D.

(c) The main share so far in the generation of electricity has been that of thermal and hydro power stations. Alongwith plans to increase these capacities, it is proposed that nuclear power will contribute an increasingly greater share in the installation of total projected capacity of 100,000 MWe by the turn of the century.

@Previously Unstarred Question 1979 transferred from the 13th August, 1984.